

2013-016 (Mottled Duck): request to recirculate for review

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Record 2013-016 (Mottled Duck) was accepted on its first circulation. Subsequent to its acceptance, information about the appearance of Mallard x Mottled Duck hybrids became more available. See for instance Leukering and Mlodinow (2012) and Leukering and Pranty (2015).

The two ducks in 2013-016 exhibit features noted in these publications as indicative of hybrid origin. These are

- Curled central tail feathers. This is readily visible in the right duck of photo #3. It is also visible in the left duck of photo #4. The latter individual appears in photo #5, in which the curled feathers are at best hinted at. Note that the right duck of photo #3 and the left duck of photo #4 are different individuals (as evidenced by various characteristics visible in the photos, perhaps most readily by overall darkness of the plumage and the chest coloration and density of markings).
- Broad white trailing edge of the speculum. Seen clearly on the left wing of the duck in photo #5, with this white bar thicker than the adjacent black bar bordering the speculum. The right wing of the right duck in photo #1 and the top duck in photo #2 also appears to show significant white at the trailing edge of the speculum.
- A reddish tone to the chest that contrasts with the brown upperparts. The color tone of pure Mottled Ducks is said to lack such contrast. This is visible in the left duck of photos #3 and #4, which is the same individual appearing in photo #5, where the contrast is also visible.

Though other features of these individuals are consistent with Mottled Duck, the above noted characteristics support identification of these ducks as Mallard x Mottled Duck hybrids. Note also that both of the individuals show at least two of these features.

#### References cited

Leukering, T and SG Mlodinow (2012). The Mexican Duck in Colorado: Identification and Occurrence. Colorado Birds, 46(4):296-308.

([http://web.corral.tacc.utexas.edu/UAF/arctos/mediaUploads/demboski/In\\_the\\_Scope\\_CB\\_October\\_2012.pdf](http://web.corral.tacc.utexas.edu/UAF/arctos/mediaUploads/demboski/In_the_Scope_CB_October_2012.pdf))

Leukering, T and B Pranty (2015). Mottled Duck Hybridization. eBird

([https://s3.amazonaws.com/is-ebird-wordpress-prod-s3/wp-content/uploads/sites/55/eBird\\_Muddled\\_Ducks.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/is-ebird-wordpress-prod-s3/wp-content/uploads/sites/55/eBird_Muddled_Ducks.pdf))